



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/045,229

11/09/2001

Robert M. Laughlin

4633.3816

9864

22235

7590

07/13/2006

MALIN HALEY AND DIMAGGIO, PA  
1936 S ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316

EXAMINER

LUDLOW, JAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1743

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/045,229	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LAUGLIN, ROBERT M.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jan M. Ludlow	<b>Art Unit</b> 1743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8-12,14 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,3,5,6 and 8-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/9/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

1. Applicant's election with traverse of group II in the reply filed on April 24, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the inventions are not distinct, that the method and apparatus clearly reflect one and the same invention, and it is difficult to understand how the apparatus can be used for a materially different process. This is not found persuasive because the apparatus can be used to test ambient air, such as car exhaust.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

1. Claims 12, 14, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 12, it is unclear how "a source of compressed human breathing air" is related to the source of breathing air, i.e., there is no clearly defined connection between the testing and the providing of compressed human breathing air. Is the sample taken from the source of compressed human breathing air, or after sampling, is the source of breathing air compressed?

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 1743

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 12,14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunshine in view of Banet.

Sunshine teaches method and apparatus for monitoring ambient air by sampling and analyzing using a field device, sending data to a central server, and sending data back to the field device via the internet using wired or wireless technologies ([0007], [0011], [0026], [0030], [0041]).

Sunshine fails to teach comparison of the data to a standard for certification.

Banet teaches a method and apparatus for testing gases emitted by automobiles. A sensor (col. 3, lines 8-12) is provided in a car manifold or tailpipe (instant means for collecting and temporarily storing a gas sample), coupled to a microprocessor and

wireless transmitter (col. 2, lines 50-59) for transmitting data to a host computer, e.g., web server, where the data is compared to EPA or other standards and a pass or fail message is transmitted to the user by electronic text, data, or voice message or Internet posting (Col. 3, lines 28-34, Figures 1 and 7). It is the examiner's position that the server is maintained by a "qualified third party". With respect to the gas analyzer being "electrically coupled" to the server, the analyzer is coupled by a wireless transmitter coupling as in the instant invention, see, e.g., instant claim 3. The coupled server and microprocessor constitute a network. Alternatively to the wireless coupling, a serial interface may be used (col. 3, line 3). Sensed analytes include hydrocarbons and oil is a hydrocarbon, thus it is the examiner's position that oil is tested for (col. 3, line 12). Banet teaches monitoring a gas sample in the field, transmitting data to a server for comparison to standards of acceptable contamination, and certifying that the gas sample has less than the acceptable level of contamination.

It would have been obvious to provide a comparison to acceptable gas quality standards in the apparatus and method of Sunshine in order to certify the gas test quality results as taught by Banet, e.g., to warn of hazardous chemicals in the ambient air. It would have been obvious to provide a printer and print the results in order to provide and maintain a hard copy independent of possible data corruption in a computer system as was known in the art. In that the invention of Sunshine can be used in medical/hospital, ambient air monitoring, product quality control and fire safety applications [0011], it is the examiner's position that compressed breathing air tanks would inherently be found in such facilities.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Applicant's arguments filed January 18, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. Applicant argues that the user facility includes one or more sources of air and air collection tanks for providing a source of compressed human breathing air, but all facilities where living humans exist inherently include a source of breathing air and it is unclear from the claim language whether the air collection tank contains compressed human breathing air or simply a sample of ambient air. Applicant argues that the instant invention includes an air source, a breathing air sample, a breathing air analysis module and certification, but Sunshine teaches remote sampling and analysis of ambient air and Banet teaches certification by comparison of remotely obtained data to a standard. Applicant argues that there is no teaching or suggestion of certifying breathing air sources that supply air for scuba tanks and emergency air tanks in the Sunshine reference, but the instant claims do not clearly link the testing and certification of air to the filling of scuba or other tanks. Note that in claim 12, line 5, "to supply" is a statement of intended use, and there is no positively recited step of compressing and supplying the tested air to the tanks. Similarly, claim 12, line 10, is satisfied by the presence of compressed human breathing air, as would typically be found in a medical/hospital or fire safety facility, which are disclosed by Sunshine.

7. Applicant argues that there is no suggestion to modify the references by providing a printer and printing the results, and that the Examiner has applied "obvious

to try” standards, but in that it is so very common to provide a printer with a computer, e.g., at work and in the home, one of ordinary skill has a reasonable expectation of success, as well as common sense motivation, to provide a printer with a computer for use for its known function.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan M. Ludlow whose telephone number is (571) 272-1260. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 11:30 am - 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1743

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jan M. Ludlow  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1743

Jml  
July 10, 2006